

Appl. No. : 10/009,002
Filed : January 14, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel 9, 10, and 19-40 without prejudice and amend Claims 1, 6-8, and 11-14 as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes GB virus-B having a complete 3'UTR and which is capable of producing infectious virus when transfected into cells in vivo, wherein the 3'UTR is encoded by the last 259 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~said molecule capable of expressing said virus when transfected into cells.~~

2. **(Original)** The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. **(Original)** The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. **(Original)** A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

5. **(Original)** A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3.

6. **(Currently amended)** An isolated RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claims 4 or 5.

7. **(Currently amended)** An isolated cell transfected with the DNA construct of claims 4 or 5.

8. **(Currently amended)** An isolated cell transfected with RNA transcripts of claim 6.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently amended)** An isolated GB virus-B produced by the cell of claim 7.

12. **(Currently amended)** An isolated GB virus-B produced by the cell of claim 8.

13. **(Currently amended)** An isolated GB virus-B whose genome comprises a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

14. **(Currently amended)** An isolated GB virus-B whose genome comprises a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3.

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15. **(Original)** A method for producing a GB virus-B comprising transfecting a host cell with the DNA construct of claims 4 or 5.

16. **(Original)** A method for producing a GB virus-B comprising transfecting a host cell with the RNA transcript of claim 6.

17. **(Original)** A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 suspended in a suitable amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient.

18. **(Original)** A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 suspended in a suitable amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient.

19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Canceled)**

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Canceled)**

27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Canceled)**

31. **(Canceled)**

32. **(Canceled)**

33. **(Canceled)**

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Canceled)**

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Canceled)**

40. **(Canceled)**